Capsule Summary

Inventory No.F-3-203 Lewistown State Fish Hatchery 10932 Putman Road Frederick County, MD Ca. 1928; 1932; ca.1940

Access: Public

The Lewistown State Fish Hatchery is located at the base of Catoctin Mountain, in the northwest region of Frederick County near Lewistown. Taking advantage of an ever-flowing mountain spring, the linear-shaped fish farm includes a small complex of buildings and a series of ponds fed by the spring water through stone-lined ditches. Established in 1917 as an experimental station for the reclamation of sport trout and bass fishing streams throughout Maryland, construction of permanent buildings and ponds began in the 1920s and 30s, with much of the work done by CCC and WPA work crews. The hatchery continues operations today, producing catfish in a greatly reduced capacity. The property includes 9 contributing buildings and 6 contributing structures, including stone-lined ditches, a concrete trout raceway, stone footbridge, and stone gate pillars. Fishponds are considered contributing landscape features but are not counted. Two non-contributing boat sheds are of recent construction.

The Lewistown State Fish Hatchery is significant under National Register Criterion A as a representative example of the development of aquaculture in west-central Maryland. Public and private cultivators of goldfish, food fish, and sport fish, were an important sub-set of the production-use of land in the west-central region, particularly in Frederick County. Using ponds already established for goldfish production, the Lewistown State Fish Hatchery was established as an experimental station in 1917 for the reclamation of depleted fishing streams, rivers, and ponds of Maryland. The hatchery complex is significant also under National Register Criterion

C for the architectural examples of early 20th century work stations associated with fish culture, and the stone water and road structures constructed by CCC and WPA work crews of the 1930s.

Inventory No. F-3-203

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of	Property	(indicate prefer	rred nan	ne)				
historic	Lewistown State l	Fish Hatchery						
other								
2. Location	1							
street and number	er 10932 Putman Ro	oad				not for pul	olication	
city, town	Thurmont				X	vicinity		
county	Frederick							
3. Owner o	of Property	(gives names a	and mail	ling addresses of all	owners)		5	
name	Maryland Departs	nent of Natural Reso	ources			8		
street and number	er		telephone					
city, town			state			zip code		
4. Location	of Legal De	escription						
courthouse, regis	try of deeds, etc. Fr	rederick County Cour	rthouse	liber 3	325 folio	234		
city, town	Frederick	tax map	70	tax parcel 436	tax I	D number	unknown	
Cor Detr Detr Rec Hist	atributing Resource in atributing Resource in ermined Eligible for the ermined Ineligible for corded by HABS/HAEI coric Structure Report	Local Historic District e National Register/I the National Register R or Research Report	ct Maryland r/Maryla					
X Oth		corded.						
6. Classific	cation							
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership Cur X public private both	agriculture commerce/trade defense domestic education funerary government health care		landscape recreation/culture religion social transportation work in progress unknown vacant/not in use	Resource Co Contributing 9 6 15 Number of Co	Noncontri 2	buildings sites structures objects Total	
		industry	X	other:	previously lis			

7. Description Condition | X | good | ruins | altered | altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

The Lewistown State Fish Hatchery is located at the base of Catoctin Mountain, in the northwest region of Frederick County near Lewistown. Taking advantage of an ever-flowing mountain spring, the linear-shaped fish farm includes a small complex of buildings and a series of ponds fed by the spring water through stone-lined ditches. Established in 1917 as an experimental station for the reclamation of sport trout and bass fishing streams throughout Maryland, construction of permanent buildings and ponds began in the 1920s and 30s, with much of the work done by CCC and WPA work crews. The hatchery continues operations today, producing catfish in a greatly reduced capacity. The property includes 9 contributing buildings and 6 contributing structures, including stone-lined ditches, a concrete trout raceway, stone footbridge, and stone gate pillars. Fishponds are considered contributing landscape features but are not counted. Two non-contributing boat sheds are of recent construction.

Description

The Lewistown State Fish Hatchery sits at the base of the east face of Catoctin Mountain on Putman Road off of Fish Hatchery Road. The area is primarily occupied in agriculture, however, as the road name implies, a number of fish hatcheries have been or continue to be in operation in the area. The Lewistown Fish Hatchery property is located on both the west and the east sides of Putman Road, running in a relatively linear track west to east from the building complex on the edge of the mountain across Putman Road to a gated lane leading to the series of fishponds. The property includes an approximately one-mile long water right-of-way leading down the mountainside from the springhead (see attached survey). The building complex grounds are shaded with large conifers, intended to keep the concrete raceway and hatch houses cool for trout production, while the fishpond area to the east is open to the sun allowing the pond waters to be warmed for warm-water fish production.

The building complex is located on the west side of Putman Road. Three buildings front onto the road, including a concrete block Cooler Room, a block and frame Hatch House, and a frame Hatch House now occupied by administrative offices. The Cooler Room, located on the northern property line, is a one-story, gable front building of concrete block construction. The roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. A single entrance is located in the east (front) elevation; a fixed multi-pane window is located in the south elevation. The building housed cooling apparatus for "road-kill" used for fish food. Just south of the Cooler Room is a gable front frame Hatch House on a raised concrete block foundation. The one-story building is partially sheathed with wood German siding. The channeled metal roof has overhanging eaves. A single door is located in the east elevation. A row of five fixed six-pane windows runs along the north and south elevations. Immediately south and set back from the road approximately 25 feet is a frame gable end one-story Hatch House with a center cross-gable, built c.1930. The east

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(front) elevation of the building has three pairs of large windows. One of these window pairs is located near the southeast end; the other two window pairs are centered under the cross-gable with a double door entrance centered between them. Above the entrance, in the gable peak, is a fixed six-pane window. The south gable end has a single centered entrance with paired windows on either side and a fixed six-pane window in the gable peak above. Several single window bays are located in the west (back) elevation. All windows are large, running from the eaves to just above the foundation, with four vertical panes over a single pane sash. All openings have plain shelf architraves. On the west elevation is a massive stone exterior chimney. The siding is wood German lapped siding; the roof is sheathed with channeled metal sheets. The interior of this hatch house originally had concrete troughs in the floor; these are now covered with flooring and the large space is used for administrative offices. This conversion appears to have occurred around the 1940s.

A stone-lined channel known as Hell Run passes between the two hatch houses, going underground before reaching the road. The spring water from this run fed the hatch house troughs as well as providing drainage for the used water. The run comes from the mountain spring approximately one mile west of the complex on the east side of Catoctin Mountain. It bisects the yard of the building complex and is crossed by a stone-arched footbridge. The run and yard are heavily shaded by cultivated conifers. In the shaded yard area on the north side of Hell Run and behind the first hatch house is a concrete raceway constructed in the ground. The raceway was fed with spring water through an iron pipe system and drains into Hell Run. No longer in use, it originally functioned for trout propagation.

Three buildings are located in the complex on the south side of Hell Run and back a short driveway from Putman Road. A small frame, one-story building serves as the Freshwater Fisheries Regional Office. Originally known as the Caretaker's Cottage, it was built in 1951. The building is gable end, three bays with an off-center door protected by a pedimented entrance porch. Windows on either side of the door are paired, six over six sash replacements. The foundation is concrete block; the exterior walls are covered with aluminum siding. A brick chimney rises in the rear; the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingle. To the northwest of the office building is a two-story, frame garage building, built c.1930. The building is three bays, square, with a hipped roof. Across the lower story of the east (front) elevation, are three garage bays with sliding doors of panel and multi-pane windows. Windows in the upper story and remaining elevation are single with four vertical panes over single pane sash; each is surrounded with a plain shelf architrave. The building is used for boat storage with workspace in the upper story. On a small hill south of the office and garage is a small, exposed log building, now abandoned, known as the Albert Powell office. The building was reportedly Army surplus, moved to this location following WWII.

On the east side of Putman Road, Hell Run continues east through stone-lined channels and a distribution system located in an open meadow which formerly included a fishpond. A gravel lane, occasionally reinforced with stone walls, leads to a stone-pillared gate and beyond to

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the fish culture ponds. A storage building complex is located on the east end of the "nesting pond," on the south side of the lane. This complex includes a c.1930 two-bay frame garage with sliding panel and glass doors, a c.1940 concrete block hatch house, and two pole sheds for boat storage (non-contributing modern additions). On the north side of the lane are a series of approximately five ponds; each has a concrete pen-stock structure with a drain valve in the bottom.

8. Signific	ance		Inve	entory No. F-3-203		
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and just	ify below			
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X 1900-1999 2000-	X agriculture archeology architecture art commerce communications community planning X conservation	economics education engineering X entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation X other: aquaculture		
Specific dates	1917- Architect/Builder unknown					
Construction da	tes 1928; 1932; c.1940					
Evaluation for:						
National Register		Mar	yland Register X	not evaluated		

Summary of Significance

The Lewistown State Fish Hatchery is significant under National Register Criterion A as a representative example of the development of aquaculture in west-central Maryland. Public and private cultivators of goldfish, food fish, and sport fish, were an important sub-set of the production-use of land in the west-central region, particularly in Frederick County. Using ponds already established for goldfish production, the Lewistown State Fish Hatchery was established as an experimental station in 1917 for the reclamation of depleted fishing streams, rivers, and ponds of Maryland. The hatchery complex is significant also under National Register Criterion C for the architectural examples of early 20th century work stations associated with fish culture, and the stone water and road structures constructed by CCC and WPA work crews of the 1930s.

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the

history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Resource History

June 10, 1918

To the Conservation Commission of Maryland

Last Fall, after an investigation of possible sites for a combined trout and pond station, your Commission decided to take up this work at Lewistown, Md. To this end contracts were entered into for the lease of 16 goldfish ponds and the necessary land and water rights for constructing and operating a temporary trout and pond station.¹

Thus began, in the fall of 1917, the Lewistown State Fish Hatchery. Acting Superintendent J.P. Snyder described in his annual report the construction of a "temporary hatchery 22 feet by 44 feet," as well as improvement of the ponds for "brood stock," including

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large-mouth bass, white catfish, and blue-gill sunfish (see attached exterior and interior photographs from 1918 Report). In 1919, then Superintendent W.G. Bell listed the "Distribution of Food and Game Fishes from Lewistown Hatchery and Brook Ponds," to 16 counties in the State of Maryland, totaling 2,049,115 fish from 10 different species.²

Fish culture had developed in the west-central region of Maryland beginning around the turn of the 20th century, primarily in the form of goldfish production for stylish gardens. Thomas Fisheries (now known as Lilypons Water Gardens), near Buckeystown in the southern region of Frederick County, was established in 1918 by an enterprising African-American named Harry E. Wolfe, backed by the wealthy Baker family. Although Wolfe's business failed in 1923, the "goldfish propagation facility" was purchased by Clarence C.C. Thomas and continues today as a viable productive use of the land. In the northern region of Frederick County, numerous "fish farms" were established and continue today, some small and some large, marked on the maps by their distinctive pond arrangements (see attached copy of 2002 ADC map). In October of 1918, the Conservation Commission of Maryland purchased from Milton Ramsburg the land and former goldfish ponds they had leased the previous year.

Although decorative fish cultivation was popular, the Conservation Commission of Maryland had taken on the more difficult effort of propagation for "a greater development of Maryland's natural resources." Superintendent W.G. Bell spoke eloquently of the important work in his 1921 report to the Commission.

It is reasonable to state that few Departments of any State Government reach so directly and intimately the vital interest of all the people, as does the Fisheries Department with its great assistance in the annual production of important food.⁶

Superintendent Bell's commitment to the state's fish hatchery operation as a source of food was reinforced by his addition of an "aquaria exhibit in connection with the poultry show, which is held annually..." Still the only freshwater fish culture station in the western counties, the Lewistown State Fish Hatchery released several hundred million fish to at least 9 counties in Maryland in 1921, just four years after its establishment.

By 1925, Superintendent Bell had been replaced by Albert M. Powell. Powell is credited with developing a scientific approach to fish and wildlife conservation in Maryland. Through Powell's efforts a stream survey was conducted throughout the state to determine the true condition of the resources; it was completed by 1928. A number of other stations were established for freshwater fish propagation, including Cushwa Rearing Station in Washington County and Bear Creek Station in Garrett County. Powell also initiated significant improvements to the facilities at Lewistown in 1928:

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A section of 200 feet of floor was replaced in the hatchery and a concrete foundation and floor 20 x 50 feet was laid in the rearing shed, which also increased the rearing capacity. This shed was formerly open on all four sides....Three sides of the shed were closed in and windows set to give the proper light and ventilation. A new garage, 18 x 18 feet, was built, providing space for two machines.

The three living rooms adjoining the main hatchery were converted into tool and work rooms. A line shaft was placed in these rooms connecting all belt-driven machinery. Water is also piped in. By this arrangement everything can be kept clean and orderly. Four concrete rearing ponds 6 x 25 feet were constructed, the hatchery grounds graded, shrubbery planted, and as soon as the grass can be made to grow, the appearance of the station will be very much improved. ¹⁰

It is difficult to identify which, if any, of these improvements remain within the current complex. However, from Powell's description, the station was beginning to take on the appearance of a permanent installation. It was apparently under Powell's leadership that much of the acreage on which the Lewistown station was located was purchased between 1929 and 1933.¹¹

In 1932, the frame Hatch House, now administrative offices, was constructed. During the heart of the Depression, Powell reported that only construction work that was "absolutely necessary" had taken place that year noting that, "a new trout hatchery at the Lewistown station was accomplished at a very low cost, due to cheaper building costs." The new hatchery "took the place of the first rude one erected in 1917...." (see attached photograph from 1935 Report). The years 1933 and 1934 saw the construction of new propagation ponds following the purchase of 16 additional acres. In 1934, Powell reported that 10 ponds were under construction, "all finishing work, such as grading, leveling, etc., was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps from the Fishing Creek Camp, No. 57." The first State-owned ponds, others were leased, they were described by Powell:

The new ponds are constructed according to the latest and most scientific and practical methods of bass culture. They are 50 feet wide and 200 feet long, 4 feet deep at the deepest point and 2 feet at the shallowest. Each pond has a separate inlet and outlet, thus making it a complete unit.

In 1935, a nesting pond was added (see attached photograph from 1935 Report), "60 by 200 feet with stalls or nests on three sides...the bottoms are covered with 6 inches of wash creek sand and rubble, providing natural spawning conditions." ¹⁵

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Annual reports from the Maryland fish hatcheries do not appear again until 1951. Presumably operations continued throughout. In 1951, it was reported that the "caretakers cottage" (now Freshwater Fisheries Regional Office) was under construction. In 1952, the report noted a reduction in water supply from the spring feeding the Lewistown station, a problem that continues today and has resulted in the drastic reduction in use of the station for fish propagation.

Note: For Historical Context, please refer to An Agricultural History of Mid-Maryland, a Maryland Historical Trust grant funded context development project administered through The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. F-3-203

Annual reports to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, 1918-1953, copies located at the Freshwater Fisheries Regional Office, Lewistown, Maryland.

Frederick Co. Land Records, Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, MD.

MIHP #F-7-46, "Boyer-Yingling House," Maryland Inventory Form.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property

Approx. 24 acres

Acreage of historical setting

Approx. 24 acres

Quadrangle name

Catoctin Furnace, MD Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Lewistown State Fish Hatchery boundary is defined by the bounds of Parcel 436 on Frederick Co. Tax Map 70, the total acreage maintained as the hatchery facility. It remains the same acreage that had been purchased by the Conservation Commission of Maryland between 1918 and 1933.

11. Form Prepared by

Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian name/title Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. organization date 11 March 2003 street & number 301-739-2070 105 N. Potomac Street telephone city or town Hagerstown state Maryland

> The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

> The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCD/DHCP

100 Community Place

Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

410-514-7600

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Endnotes

¹ "REPORT OF FISH HATCHERIES, 1918." J.P Snyder, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Acting Superintendent, addressed to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, 512 Munsey Building, Baltimore, Maryland, p. 47.

² From Superintendent's report to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, 1919, p. 61.

³ Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, F-7-46, "Boyer-Yingling House." William G. Baker sold 121 acres to Harrry E. Wolfe for \$1.00, "reserving a vendor's lien for \$6,000." Wolfe dug the ponds but the business failed to produce enough money to pay back the lien. It was sold at an Equity Court sale in 1923.

⁴ Frederick Co. Deed Book 326, page 234.

⁵ 1921 annual report to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, "FISH CULTURAL WORK," Fresh Water Hatcheries, report of W.G. Bell, Superintendent, p. 45.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ 1923 report to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, W.G. Bell, Superintendent, p. 54.

⁸ Ibid, pp. 56-58.

⁹ Albert W. Powell, "Report of Division of Fish Culture," in annual report to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, 1928, p. 72.

¹⁰ Ibid, pp. 74-75.

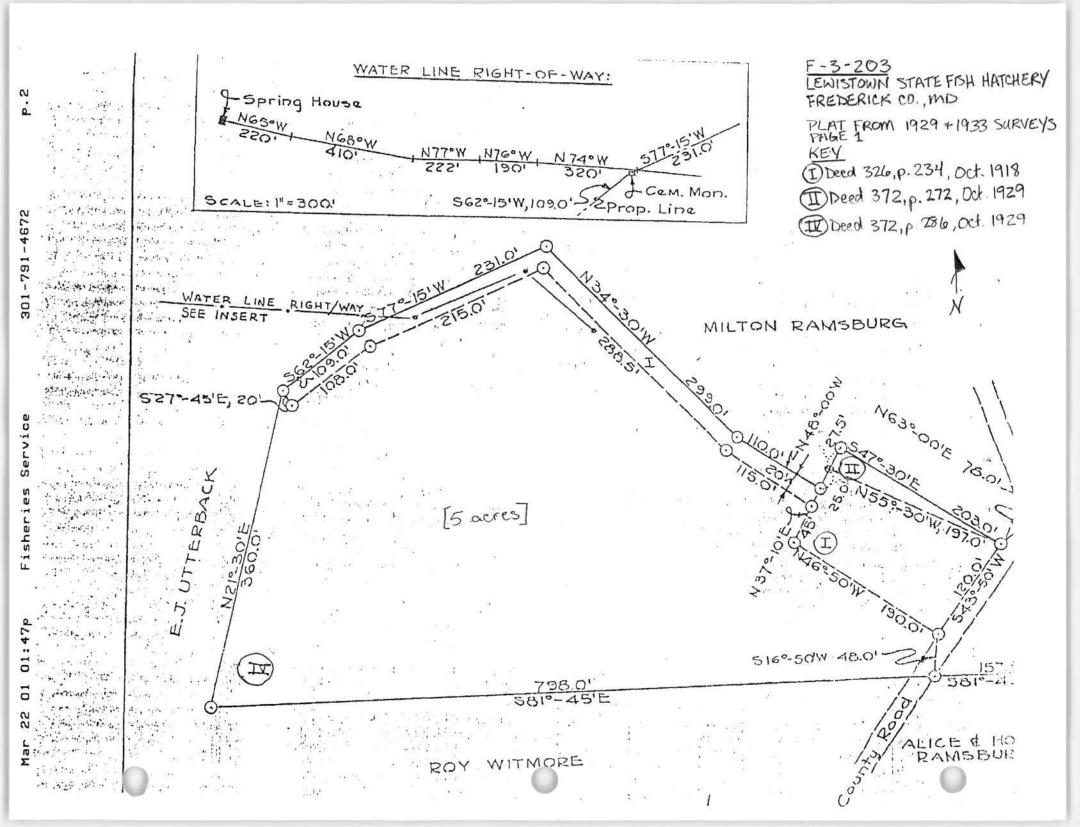
¹¹ Frederick Co. Deeds 372/272 and 372/286 (5 acres) in 1929; 374/189 (1 acre) in 1930; and 390/125 (16 acres) in 1933.

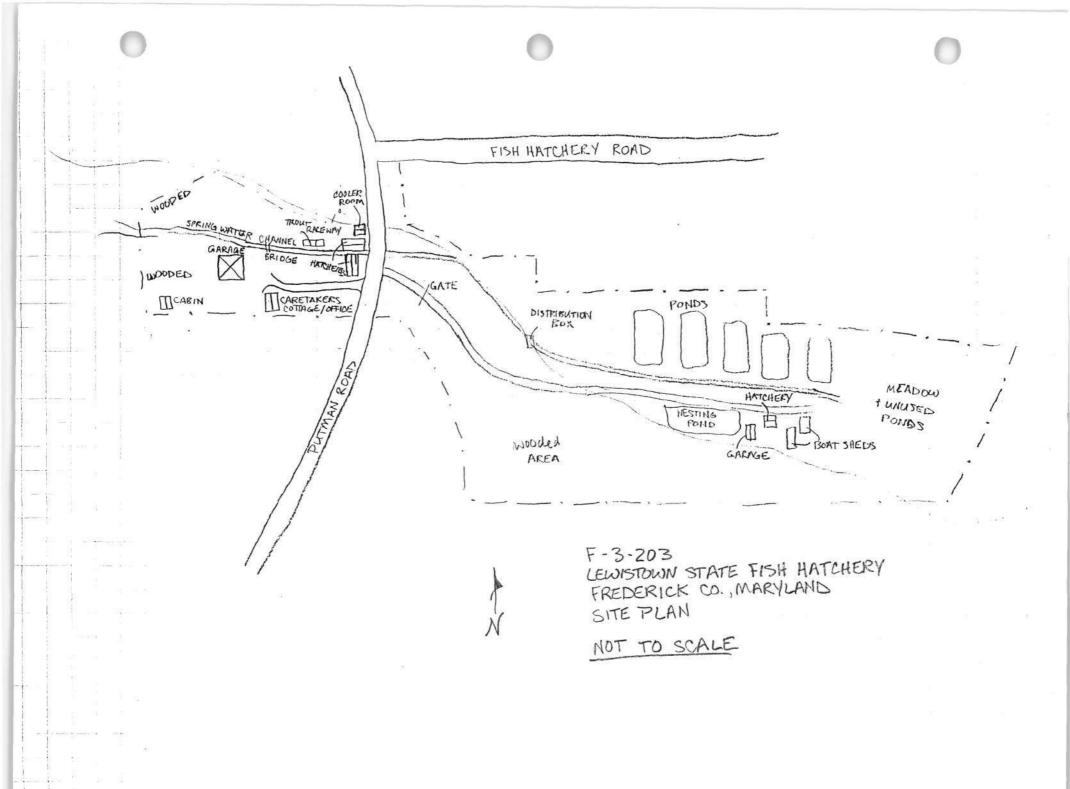
¹² Albert M. Powell, "Report of the Division of Fish Culture," annual report to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, 1932, p. 66.

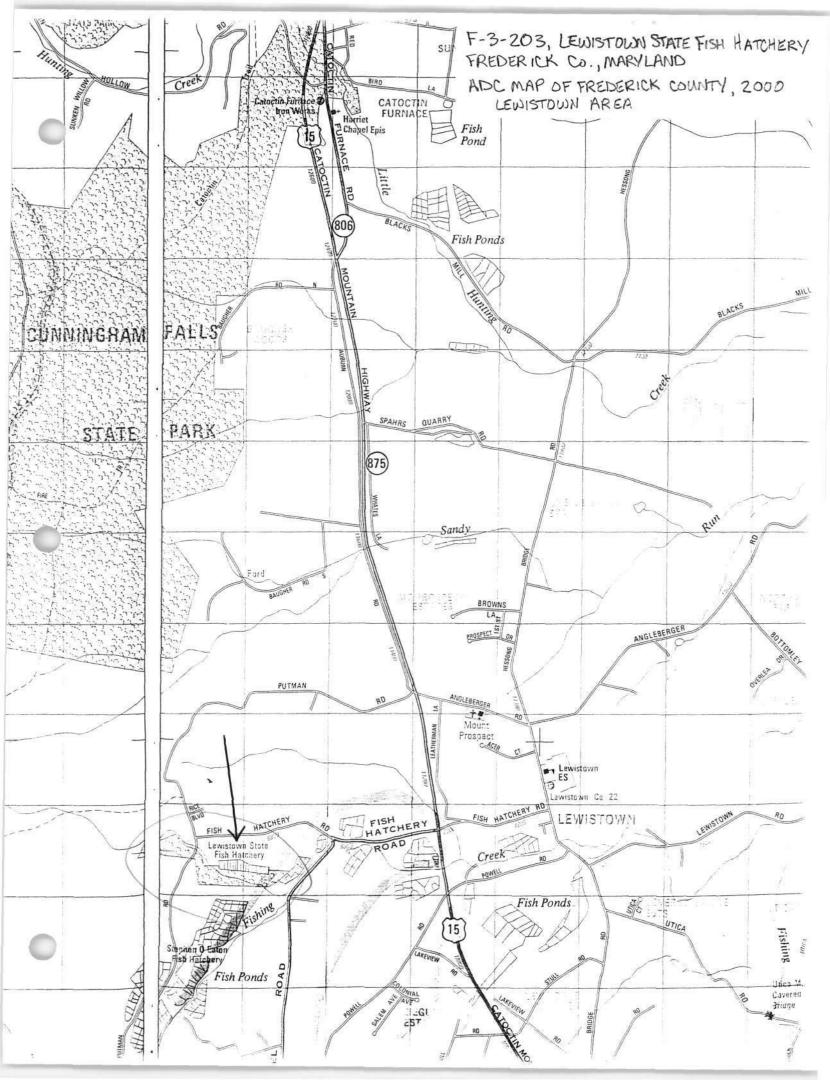
¹³ Frederick Co. Deed Book 390, page 125.

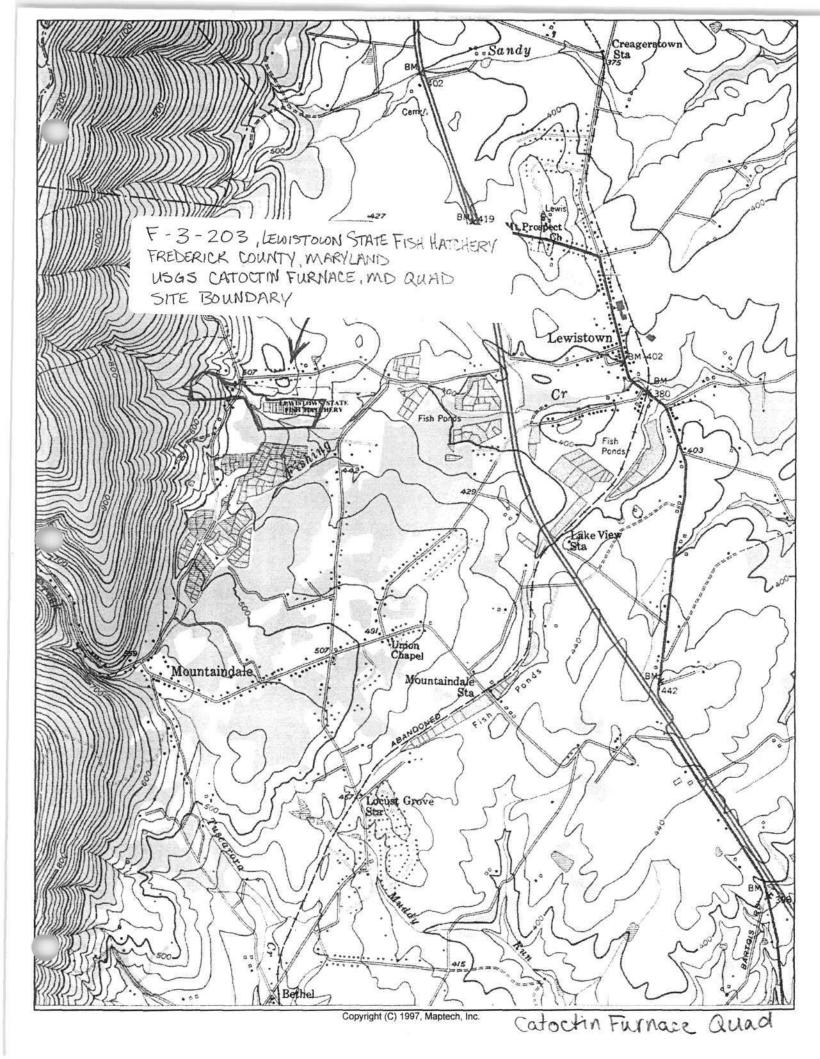
¹⁴ Albert M. Powell, "Report of Division of Fish Culture," annual report to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, 1934, p. 63.

¹⁵ Albert M. Powell, "Report of Division of Fish Culture," annual report to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, 1935, p. 31.



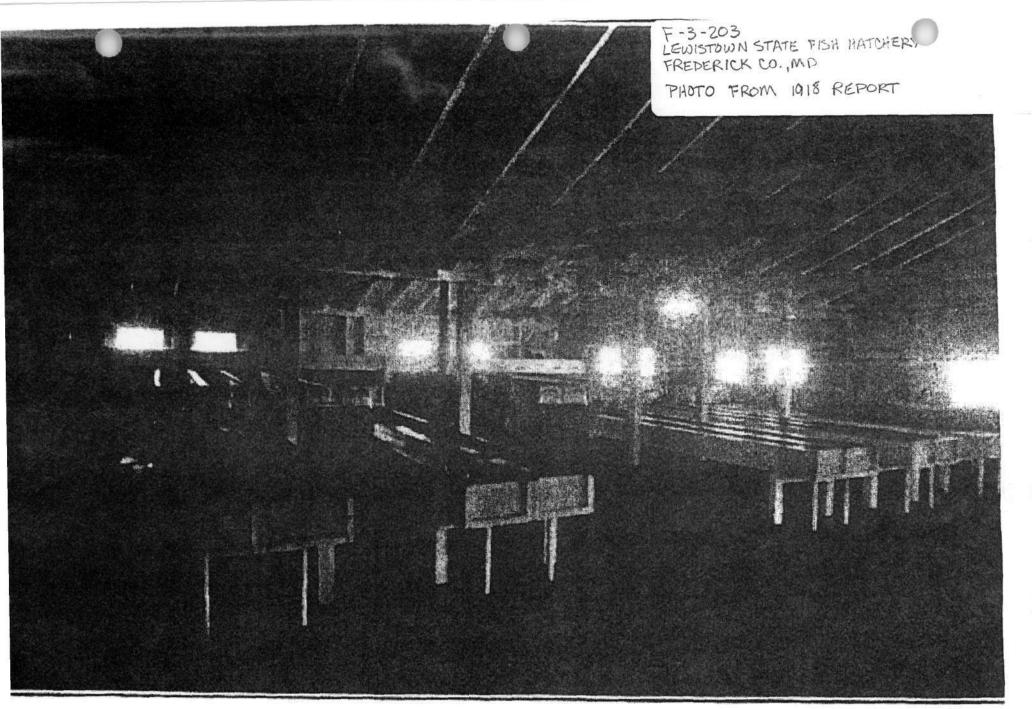




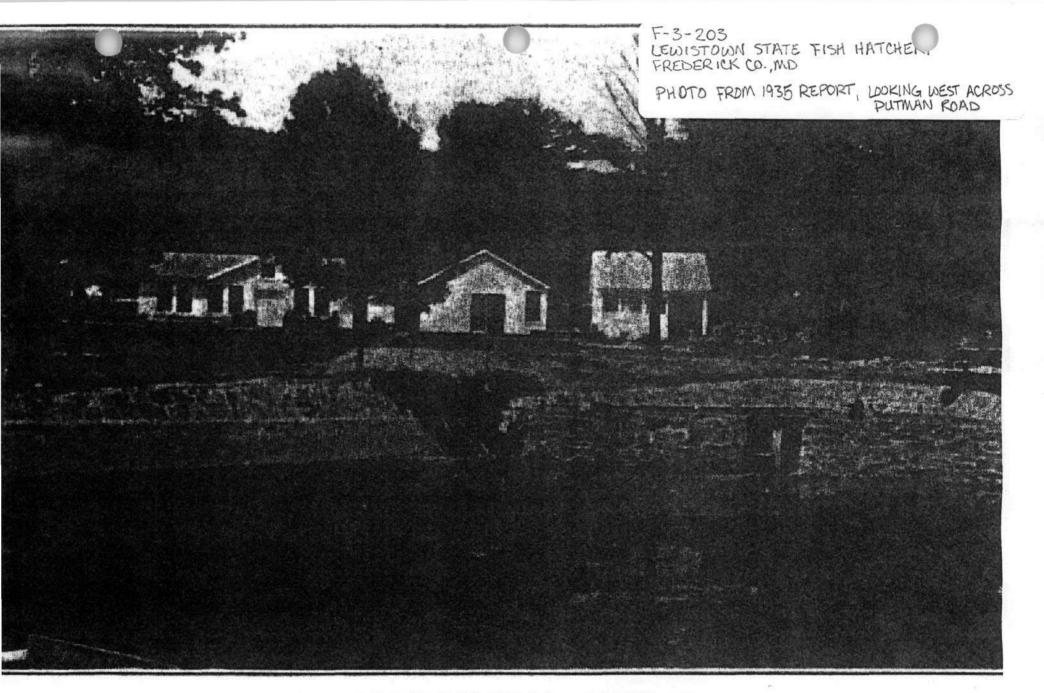




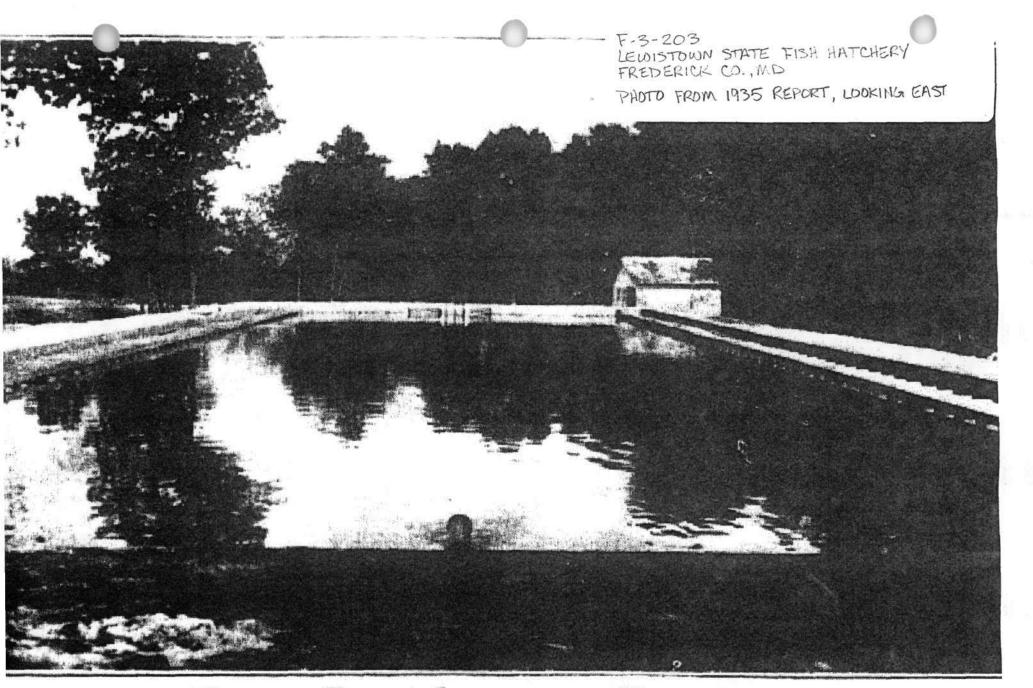
Exterior View, Trout Hatchery, at Lewistown, Md.



Interior View. Trout Hatchery, at Lewistown, Md.



LEWISTOWN FISH HATCHERY. FREDERICK COUNTY.



NESTING POND-LEWISTOWN HATCHERY



F-3-203 Lewistown State Fish Frederick So., MD E. Wallace Roadside marker, Fish Hotchery Rd., NE of hatchery site.



F-3-203 Lewistown State Fish H Frederick Co., MD Wallace
Mostro
Hotchery Bldg/Office, E elevation, view NW

2/14 Modak Professio PARKE ® 139AB



E-3-203 2 State Fishe Hatchery E. Watlace 1/03 = 9 MDSAPO= Hotchery Blog/Office S and E elevations, view NW SUSTEM SUST totessional



Lewistown State Fish Hodehery Frederick Co., mo 43184D MOSHPO TABLES OF Cooley Room 2 8 0 Modak@Miessional and E elevations view No Kodak P RANKE O PAPEL 139AB



F-3-203 Lewistown State Fish Hatchery Frederick Co., MD E. Wallace 1949 Mostro
Hatchery Blog, S and E elevations, view New



F-3-203 Lewistain State Fish Hartchen Frederick C8, MD E. Wallace denck Cs, mb wallace Building group setting, view E along spring of professional PAPIER Todak P PAREA.



F-3-203 Lewistown State Fish Hatchery Frederick Commo Kodak RYREA BAPEL 103
MDSHPO
Spring channel and stone foot bridge in



BELK 1-3-203 State Frederick Co., MD RAPER. E. Wallace
1/03
mostroo
Fisheries office/caretabers cottage, E elevation, view NW 8/4-7 to BK 13848



Frederick Com, MD E. Wallace WAILER .



Lewistown State Fish Frederick Co., MD Stone distribution box and water channels, view NW in parcel on E side of Putman Rd



Lewistown Stade Fosh Hatchery Frederick Co., mis is. 1 Apport 1/03 RAPIER. Stone gate posts, view SE into paincel.
Eside of Putman Rel. Modakp PAPER RAIRA

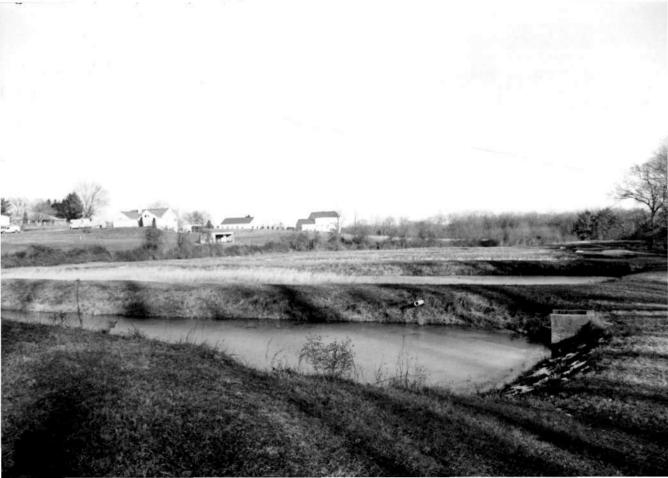


Lewistown State Fish Hatchery
Frederick: Co., Mis

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Mosting Pond and building gr POLK . dak Protessional SAMPLE WANTED 1000 PAPER . group in E parce view SE 12/14 PARKE BARKE totessional Modalk Professio PAPER PAPER WALL



Lewistown State.
Frederick Co., Mod
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F-3-203. Lewistown State Frederick Co., mo PAPEL Tedenza E. Wallace STREET STREET PARC) PAREK